Utilisation of water resources

2395. SHRI R. KANAND: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Water commission (CWC) was entrusted with the responsibility for furthering and promoting measures for control conservation and utilization of water resources throughout the country in areas of beneficial uses, irrigation and hydropower and hydro-power generation, flood management and river conservation;

(b) if so, to what extent the CWC has met with the responsibility in flood management in Bihar, connecting rivers, developing hydro-power generation, conservation and utilization of water resources etc.; and

(c) whether the CWC has failed to provide Ganga water to Delhi to tide over the water scarcity problem and what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) As per the resolution dated 21st April, 1951, the then Central Water and Power commission was charged with the general responsibility of initiating, coordinating and furthering, in consultation with the State Governments concerned, schemes for the control, conservation and utilization of water resources, throughout the country, for purpose of flood control, irrigation, navigation and water-power generation. With the bifurcation of Central Water and Power commission, in Central Water Commission and Central Electricity authority in the year, 1974, the responsibility of works related to water power generation rests with Central Electricity Authority. Specific schemes related to flood management in Ganga basin States including Bihar are examined and monitored by Ganga Flood control Commission which was established in the year 1972. National Water Development Agency has been established in the year 1982 to take up the works related to feasibility studies for the identified links under National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development.

The subject of water supply irrigation and canals, drainage and embankment, water storage and water power are in the State List. The State Government conceive, plan and implement water resources development schemes. Central Water Commission (CWC) provides technical assistance and guidance to the State Governments particularly in techno-economic evaluation of irrigation multipurpose projects. Other

important activities of Central Water Commission include maintenance of network of key hydrological observation sites and flood forecasting stations.

(c) The issue of providing Ganga water to Delhi is to be resolved between the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. However, CWC acts as facilitator. At present Government of Delhi is getting Ganga water for its Bhagirath Water Treatment Plant with installed capacity of 100 million gallons per day. Further, Government of Uttar Pradesh had conveyed its no objection in 1998 for reserving 300 cubic feet per second (cusecs) of water for supply form the Tehri Dam for meeting the needs of Delhi. With the closure of the last diversion tunnel, the impounding of Tehri Dam has started in last week of October, 2005. Ministry of Water Resources has already advised the Government of Uttar Pradesh for necessary action regarding release of water from Tehri Dam to Delhi.

Water harvesting

† 2396. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an I.A.S. officer in Devas, Madhya Pradesh has carried out an innovative experiment regarding water harvesting;

(b) whether such an experiment can be followed in other parts of the country also; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. The then Collector of Devas district of Madhya Pradesh during the period 2000—2002 had motivated the resident of Devas district of Madhya Pradesh to adopt Rain Water Harvesting and other artificial recharge techniques.

(c) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take steps to encourage rain water harvesting. However, the following steps have been taken by the Union government in this regard:—

(i) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, has already carried out demonstrative projects

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.